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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Communist Prisoner of War Exchange Center, Kaesong

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Origin and Mission

1. In January 1952, a prisoner of war exchange center for the delivery of United Nations POW's and for the reception of Communist POW's was established in Kaesong at approximately 126-33, 37-58, BT-849054, by the North Korean army general headquarters. The POW Exchange Center was ordered to prepare for the transportation, quartering, and feeding of both United Nations and Communist POW's when they are repatriated after the termination of the truce negotiations.

Personnel

2. The POW Exchange Center, which is attached to the Political Department of the North Korean army general headquarters, is staffed by part of the 34 Regiment, 1 North Korean IV Corps, and by some Chinese Communist army officers and non-commissioned officers. The total strength of the Exchange Center is 643 men, distributed as follows: 70 North Korean officers; 30 Chinese Communist officers; 300 North Korean and Chinese Communist non-commissioned officers; and 243 North Korean enlisted men.

Officers at the Center

3. The commander of the POW Exchange Center is Colonel CHANG Pŏm, aged 40, a Korean of Chinese descent. The most important positions, with the names of the men holding them, are the following: chief of Political Section, Lieutenant Colonel MA Chae-su, head of the Propaganda Section, Lieutenant Colonel KIM Chae-kuk, chief of the Labor Party Section, Major YUN Chu-ho

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25X1Joint Preparatory Committee

4. Planning for the POW Exchange Center is handled by the Joint Preparatory

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Committee, which consists of six Chinese Communist officers and five North Korean officers. The committee is composed of eight sections: the Staff Section, the Guidance Section, the Prisoners Support Section, the Political Section, the Rear Service Section, the Propaganda and Agitation Section, the Labor Party Committee, and the Democratic Youth Alliance Section.

25X1 [] Comment. This office has no information confirming the existence of the 34 Regiment.

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